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Remarks

Before this amendment, claims 1-6, 8-19, and 21-27 were pending.

Claims 1, 9, 12, and 21-24 are rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,695,297 to Geib. Claims 2 and 5-6 are rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Geib.

Claims 16-19 and 25-27 are allowed.

Claims 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, and 13-15 are objected to as depending from rejected base claims, but are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 4, 25 and 27 are hereby amended. Claim 3 is hereby canceled. New claims 28-33 are added. No new matter is added. Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-15, 21-24

Claim 1 is amended to recite the limitations of claim 3, which was indicated to be allowable. As amended, claim 1 is allowable for the same reasons that claim 3 was previously indicated to be allowable. Claims 2, 4-6, 8-15, 21-24 depend from claim 1 and for this reason, and the other limitations they recite, are also allowable.

Claim 3 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 3 is canceled because its limitations were incorporated into independent claim 1.

Claim 4 is amended to change its dependency to claim 1, in view of the amendment to claim 1 and the cancellation of claim 3. As amended, claim 4 is allowable.

Claim 5 is amended for clarity. As amended, claim 5 is allowable.

Claims 16-18

Claims 16-18 were previously indicated to be allowable. No amendments are made to these claims. They remain allowable.

Claims 19, 27

Claims 19 and 27 were previously indicated to be allowable. Both remain allowable.

Claim 27 depends from claim 19 and was previously indicated to be allowable. Claim 27 is hereby amended to clarify antecedent basis not raised in the Office Action. As amended, claim 27 remains allowable.

Claims 25-26

Claim 25 has been amended to remove an errant period in line 6. Claim 25 was previously indicated to be allowable. As amended, claim 26 remains allowable. Claim 26 depends from claim 25. It was previously indicated to be allowable and it remains allowable after the amendment to claim 25.

Claim 28

New independent claim 28 is hereby added. Claim 28 includes the limitations of original dependent claim 8, which was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 28 is allowable for the same reasons that claim 8 was indicated to be allowable.

Claims 29, 30

New independent claim 29 is hereby added. Claim 29 includes the limitations of original dependent claim 10, which was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 28 is allowable for the same reasons that claim 10 was indicated to be allowable. New claim 30 depends from claim 29 and for this reason, and the other limitations it recites, is also allowable.

Claims 31, 32

New independent claim 31 is hereby added. Claim 31 includes the limitations of original dependent claim 13, which was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 31 is allowable for the same reasons that claim 13 was indicated to be allowable. New claim 32 depends from claim 31 and for this reason, and the other limitations it recites, is also allowable.

Claim 33

New independent claim 31 is hereby added. Claim 33 includes the limitations of original dependent claim 15, which was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 33 is allowable for the same reasons that claim 15 was indicated to be allowable.

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For these reasons, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-19, 21-33 are allowable. Reconsideration and allowance are requested. These amendments should generate \$545 in additional claims fees (4 new independent claims at \$105 each; 5 new total claims at \$25 each). The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge these fees, as well as any other associated with this communication, to Deposit Account No. 08-2623.

Respectfully submitted,

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